

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

By this Amendment, Claims 1-6, 14 and 16 have been amended to more particularly recite certain distinctive features of Applicants' invention, as discussed in detail below. The Claims have also been amended for consistency and clarity of expression. Claim 16 has also been amended to address the alleged informalities therein. Claims 19-23 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-23 are pending.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8-11 and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over the allegedly admitted prior art (AAPA) in combination with Hadderman. Claims 2, 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over AAPA in combination with Konishi, and Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over AAPA in combination with Hadderman and Konishi.

Without acceding to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the independent claims have been amended to clarify what was intended to be claimed as Applicants' invention. In particular, Claims 1-3 now recite, *inter alia*, that the interface control circuit, when the system is removed from the external apparatus, detects a potential change that occurs at a first external terminal of the system which is disconnected from a predetermined terminal of the external apparatus before the power supply from the external

apparatus is disconnected from a second external terminal of the system. Independent Claims 14 and 16 have been similarly amended. It is apparent the applied prior art does not teach or suggest these claim features. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Claims 1-3, 14 and 16 and their dependent claims are allowable over the applied prior art.

New dependent Claims 19-23 have been added to protect additional features of Applicants' invention. In particular, new Claims 19-21 recite that the first and second external terminals have different lengths, and new Claims 22-23 recite that the plurality of external terminals includes external terminals having different lengths. These features are also not taught or suggested by the applied prior art.

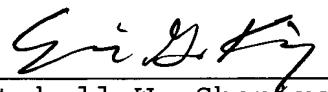
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and that this application be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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